



September 3, 2008

The Honorable Anne K. Quinlan  
Acting Secretary  
Surface Transportation Board  
395 E Street, SW  
Washington DC 20423-0001

Dear Ms. Quinlan:

SSAB North American Division (NAD), currently operates two Iron and Steel plate manufacturing facilities in addition to three Cut-to-Length processing facilities in North America. Total annual shipments for both inbound and outbound product are in excess of 5 million net tons. A significant portion of that tonnage utilizes the services of various railroads throughout the North American railway system. We have previously supported the proposed acquisition of the Elgin, Joliet and Eastern Railroad by the Canadian National and issued a verified Statement by Greg Maindonald, dated October 9, 2007, on behalf of IPSCO Inc., a division of SSAB, which at the time owned the above aforementioned facilities.

We are now supporting the Canadian National's petition of August 14, 2008 for modification of the procedural schedule, thus permitting the Surface Transportation Board (STB) to render a decision on the merits of the Canadian National's proposed transaction, subject to maintenance of the environmental status quo pending completion of the STB's environmental review.

SSAB recognizes the necessity of an environmental review by the STB for the proposed transaction, but questions the efforts of certain communities to arbitrarily defeat the proposed transaction given the many efficiencies, productivity gains, and positive environmental aspects for the Chicago area that this transaction would provide.

The Canadian National's August 14 petition offers a solution that protects the public interest related to an environmental review and still allows a timely decision related to the merits of the proposed acquisition. By approving this petition, the STB would allow the Canadian National to close the transaction with the seller(s) of portions of the Elgin, Joliet and Eastern Railway within the original agreed-to time frame.

We find it difficult to understand why some of the opponents of this transaction claim the most recent Canadian National's proposal would somehow truncate the STB's review process. The competitive issues have already been discussed and briefed per the established regulatory process and have nothing to do with environmental issues. Canadian National's proposed solution still



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allows the environmental review to continue to its logical conclusion without any change to the environmental status quo. The STB would still retain whatever authority it has to prevent or mitigate any environmental impact that might be identified in its continuing review.

SSAB NAD requests the STB recognize that the Canadian National's request is in the public interest and to grant their petition for modification of the procedural schedule.

Respectfully,

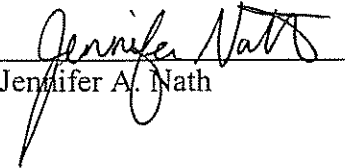
A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading 'Larry J. Schnurbusch'.

Larry J. Schnurbusch  
Vice President Operations Services

cc: All parties of record

### **CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I certify that I have this 3<sup>rd</sup> day of September, 2008, served the foregoing letter of Larry J. Schnurbusch, Vice President, Operation Services, SSAB, upon all known parties of record in this proceeding by causing a copy to be sent to each by first-class mail or a more expeditious method.

  
Jennifer A. Nath